

Abstract 676

TITLE: A Manageable Approach for Assessing Domestic Violence in Partner Management Services Trainings

AUTHORS: DeSantis, L; Orenstein, F; Mehlhaff, G; Cohen, D; Gibson, P; Gandelman, A.

ISSUE: There is growing awareness that Domestic Violence (DV) is a valid public health issue and should be assessed and addressed in all appropriate public health venue. In particular, HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services (HIV PCRS) providers acknowledge DV as a common client issue and describe the difficulty of consistently assessing clients for DV. Provider barriers and lack of usable guidelines seem to be at the core of this reluctance. If DV is not addressed, the client is not adequately served and critical partner management issues are left unresolved.

SETTING: Approximately three hours are designated and incorporated into the Three Day training on HIV PCRS.

PROJECT: Through a series of orientation meetings and surveys conducted prior to implementation of HIV PCRS trainings, we learned that providers thought DV was an important issue but felt ill-prepared and reluctant to approach it. To address this issue, the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (PTC) in combination with the California Office of AIDS have designed a segment of our HIV PCRS training to help providers understand how DV may be a barrier to voluntary partner notification. Within our HIV PCRS training, we have incorporated a manageable assessment guide for DV, which utilizes a step-by-step skill based model. The essential components of this model include making an assessment and providing appropriate referrals.

RESULTS: We have successfully integrated a skill-based model on DV into our HIV PCRS training. A preliminary analysis of training participants' evaluations indicates skill enhancement and increased self-efficacy with both the assessment and referral components for DV issues. With future trainings, these results will be further evaluated and documented.

LESSON: The PTC thus far has discovered that DV training for HIV PCRS is needed, appropriate and can be adequately integrated into trainings, such as Family Planning, STD/HIV, and other sexuality or health related concerns. We propose that DV can and should be incorporated into all HIV PCRS trainings. To complement this, further training for public health staff on DV coupled with efforts to develop policy and guidelines is essential in any appropriate public health venue. These measures will enhance provider skills, more adequately serve clients, and help to cultivate more comprehensive partner management and public health services.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Linda DeSantis

Address: 1947 Center St. #201
Berkeley, CA 94704

Telephone: (510) 883-6661

Fax: (510) 849-5057

E-mail: ldesantis@dhs.ca.gov